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REMARKS

Applicant has carefully reviewed the Office Action dated November 14, 2006. Reconsideration and favorable action is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-10, 12-29, and 31-37 are pending in this application.

Claims 1, 29, and 35-37 have been amended.

Claims 11 and 30 have been canceled without prejudice.

Regarding the Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant appreciates the Examiner's indication that claims 12-28 are allowable.

Applicant further appreciates the Examiner's indication that claims 3, 6-9, 11, and 30-33 are objected to as being dependant upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

As such, applicant has amended claim 1 to include the limitations of canceled and allowable claim 11. Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1 and the claims directly or indirectly dependent thereon (claims 2-10) are now ready for allowance.

Further, independent claim 29 is amended to include the limitations of allowable and canceled claim 30. As such, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 29 and its related dependent claims (claims 31-34) are now allowable over the cited references.

Regarding the Section 103 Rejection

Claims 35-37 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over *Ruha, et al* (U.S. Patent No. 6,473,019).

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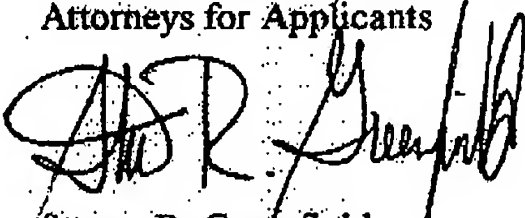
Ruha does not teach or suggest "feedback circuitry for receiving the output signal of two or more of the decision circuits" wherein the feedback signal is "based upon an averaged electrical characteristic of the summing node." Furthermore, *Ruha* does not teach or suggest applying "an averaged feedback signal to the input of the decision circuits as a function of the output signals from the two or more of the decision circuits."

Claim 35 is amended to recite that the feedback signal is "based upon an averaged electrical characteristic of the summing node." Claim 36 is amended to recite feedback circuitry for "applying an averaged feedback signal to the input of the decision circuits as a function of the output signals from the two or more of the decision circuits." And, claim 37 is amended to recite feedback circuitry for "applying an averaged feedback signal to the input of the decision circuits as a function of the output signals from the two or more of the decision circuits" wherein the averaged feedback signal is "based upon an electrical characteristic of the differential pair of summation nodes." As such, applicant respectfully submits that the cited reference does not teach or suggest the averaged feedback signal features of claims 35, 36, and 37. Applicant respectfully requests that the Section 103 rejection be withdrawn and submits that independent claims 35-37 are now ready for allowance.

Accordingly, it is believed that entry of this Amendment is warranted under the provisions of 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 as it would clearly reduce those issues which might be present upon the filing of an appeal. However, Applicant respectfully submits that entry of this Amendment is more importantly warranted in that it clearly causes the claims to be patentably distinguishable over all art of record and that this application should be reconsidered and all

claims indicated as allowable. Applicant therefore respectfully requests entry of this Amendment, the reconsideration of this application, and earnestly solicits a Notice of Allowance.

Respectfully submitted,
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